CLAIMS

I Claim:

5   1. A method for receiving a product notice signal comprising:
        receiving a signal;
        notifying a user when the signal is addressed to the product; and
        recording a signal event in a substantially permanently manner.

10   2. The method of Claim 1 wherein receiving a signal comprises:
        monitoring a communications channel;
        decoding a signal received from the communications channel; and
        recognizing a message in the decoded signal.

15   3. The method of Claim 2 wherein decoding a signal comprises at least one of
        demodulating a radio frequency signal, demodulating a plurality of radio
        frequency signals selected according to a numeric sequence, scanning wired-
        network activity for a predetermined network address, scanning wireless-
        network activity for a predetermined network address, demodulating a carrier
20   received by way of a switched-network telephone connection, demodulating a
        carrier received by way of a cellular telephone connection, extracting digital
        data from a cellular data system signal.

      4. The method of Claim 2 wherein monitoring a communications channel
25   comprises:
        determining an anticipation window when a signal is anticipated; and
        enabling communications channel monitoring during the anticipation
        window.

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Attorney, J. I. J'maev, Reg. No. 45,669
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5. The method of Claim 4 wherein determining when a signal is anticipated comprises:

comparing a digital identifier to a current time value; and

declaring an anticipation window when the digital identifier matches the current time value.

6. The method of Claim 2 further comprising capturing either a portion of the message or the entire message when a digital identifier in said message matches a local digital identifier and when the message is a signal message.

7. The method of Claim 2 further comprising:

capturing a time value from the message when the message is a time-beacon; and

storing the time value in a time clock.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein notifying a user comprises enabling a visual indicator when the signal is addressed to the product.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein notifying a user comprises:

extracting an alphanumeric message from a signal message when the signal is addressed to the product; and

displaying the alphanumeric message to a user.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein recording a signal event comprises storing at least one of a Boolean message received indicator, a message type indicator, an alphanumeric message and a time indicator.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein recording a signal event comprises at least
one of breaking a fusible link, electrically programming a memory and
maintaining continuous power to a memory.

5   12. A product notice receiver comprising:
detector capable of receiving a signal;
notification unit capable of notifying a user when a signal addressed to the
product is received; and
non-volatile memory capable of storing an indication when a signal
10   addressed to the product is received.

13. The product notice receiver of Claim 12 wherein the detector comprises a
message decoder capable of converting a signal into a message.

15   14. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 wherein the detector comprises at
least one of radio frequency receiver, spread-spectrum receiver, wired
network interface, wireless network interface, a telephone interface, a cellular
telephone interface, a cellular data interface, a 2G interface and a 3G
interface.
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15. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a signal
anticipation unit capable of generating an anticipation signal when a signal is
anticipated and wherein the detector further comprises a disable input signal
for either disabling the detector or causing it to operate in a low-power mode
25   and wherein said disable input is driven by the anticipation signal.

16. The product notice receiver of Claim 15 wherein the signal anticipation unit

comprises:

time clock; and

comparator capable of generating an anticipation signal when a value

5   provided by the time clock matches a digital identifier.

17. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a time clock that is

capable of storing a new time value when the detector receives a time

beacon.

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18. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a message

register capable of storing either a portion of the message or the entire

message when a digital identifier in the message matches a local digital

identifier.

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19. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 wherein the notification unit

comprises a visual indicator that is capable is providing a visual indication to a

user when a signal addressed to the product is received.

20   20. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising alphanumeric

memory capable of storing an alphanumeric message extracted from the

signal message and wherein the notification unit comprises an alphanumeric

display that is capable of presenting the alphanumeric message to a user.

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